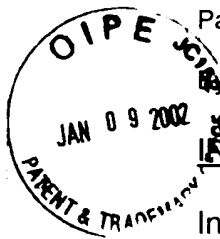


Docket No.: GR 55 P 5374

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:

Date: December 28, 2001



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Nicolas Nagel et al.
Applic. No. : 09/729,069
Filed : December 4, 2000
Title : Microelectronic Structure and Method of Fabricating it
Examiner : David Vu - Art Unit: 2818

R E S P O N S E

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

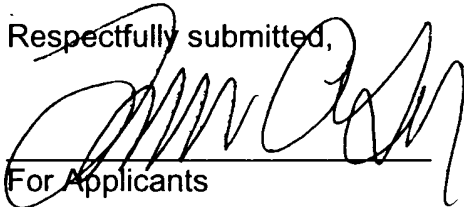
Responsive to the Office Action dated December 4, 2001, the following remarks are made:

In deference to the restriction requirement on pages 2 and 3 of the above-identified Office Action, applicants elect group I, claims 1-17, for prosecution at this time.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application including the method claims of group II at a later date and/or to request a rejoinder under MPEP §821.04.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits of claims 1-17 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicants

LAWRENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

Date: December 28, 2001

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